

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Torture.mp4

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2000163.005

Medium: Video File

Maker: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English, Swahili

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 23 July 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 23 July 2020

	Components	Running time
Timed component(s):	Torture.mp4	1:52
Total running time:		1:52

Summary of reasons for decision:

The video file depicts a man being beaten and stabbed. It has a public service style voiceover warning young people, women in particular, not to travel through certain parts of the world. The Classification Office has considered whether this video file promotes or supports, or tends to promote or support, acts of torture or the infliction of extreme violence or extreme cruelty and has concluded that it does not. However, the unrestricted availability of the video file is still likely to cause injury to the public good. The confronting depiction of a brutal real-world assault is likely to be shocking and disturbing to most people, particularly children and teenagers who are still developing their awareness of the real-world and may not aware of the reality of assaults like the one depicted in

the video file. The content is likely to have a lasting impact on them. Adults are also likely to find the video file as a whole difficult and upsetting to watch, but they are more likely to have the maturity, knowledge and life experience to understand the purpose and intent of the video in this form. The video file is therefore restricted to adults. This classification places a limitation on the right to freedom of expression as set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but is the lowest reasonable limitation on that right which can be applied in order to prevent injury to the public good.